

**BEFORE THE NATIONAL GREEN TRIBUNAL
PRINCIPAL BENCH, NEW DELHI**

Original Application No. 673/2018

IN THE MATTER OF:

**NEWS ITEM PUBLISHED IN 'THE HINDU' AUTHORED BY SHRI. JACOB KOSHY
Titled
"More river stretches are now critically polluted: CPCB"**

**CORAM: HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE ADARSH KUMAR GOEL, CHAIRPERSON
HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE S.P. WANGDI, JUDICIAL MEMBER
HON'BLE DR. NAGIN NANDA, EXPERT MEMBER**

DATED: 20TH SEPTEMBER, 2018.

ORDER

1. This application has been registered on the basis of a news item dated 17.09.2018 in "The Hindu" under the heading "More river stretches are now critically polluted: CPCB"¹.

2. According to the news item, 351 polluted river stretches have been noted by the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB). 117 such stretches are in the States of Assam, Gujarat, and Maharashtra. The CPCB has apprised the concerned States of the extent of pollution in the rivers. According to the news item, most polluted stretches are from Powai to Dharavi – with Biochemical Oxygen Demand (BOD) 250 mg/L; the Godavari - from Someshwar to Rahed – with BOD of 5.0-80 mg/L; the Sabarmati – Kheroj to Vautha – with BOD from 4.0-147 mg/L; and the Hindon – Saharanpur to Ghaziabad – with a BOD of 48-120 mg/L. The CPCB has a programme to monitor the quality of rivers by measuring BOD. BOD greater than or equal to 30mg/L is termed as 'Priority I', while that between 3.1-6 mg/L is 'Priority V'. The CPCB considers a BOD less than 3mg/L an indicator of a healthy river. In its 2015 Report², the CPCB had identified 302 polluted stretches on 275 rivers, spanning 28 States and six Union Territories. The number of such stretches has now been found to be 351.

¹ <https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/more-river-stretches-critically-polluted-cpcb/article24962440.ece>

² <http://cpcb.nic.in/cpcb/old/RESTORATION-OF-POLLUTED-RIVER-STRETCHES.pdf>

3. The question for consideration is whether any direction is necessary by this Tribunal, if river stretches are polluted as per the report of CPCB, which is a statutory body under the Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974, (the Water Act).
4. The matter has been considered by the Hon'ble Supreme Court and this Tribunal in several cases to which reference will be made at appropriate place in the order. The matter was recently reviewed in a Chamber Meeting held on 10.09.2018 amongst all the Members of the Tribunal and the representatives of the CPCB, the Department of Water Resources, the Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change, the Niti Ayog, the National Mission for Clean Ganga, Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs, the representatives of the States of Maharashtra, Gujarat, Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Bihar, Punjab, Uttar Pradesh, NCT of Delhi and the Union Territory of Daman & Diu. The object of the meeting was to discuss as to how the level of fitness for bathing in all the rivers must be achieved at the earliest. The Tribunal was open to consider the matter on judicial side. Accordingly, we proceed to consider the same in the light of inputs available in public domain.
5. There is no dispute with the proposition that the water is the lifeline for existence. Shortage of clean water is a matter of serious concern. Checking of pollution in the rivers is integrally linked not only to the availability of clean potable water but also to the protection of environment.
6. Article 48A of the Constitution casts a duty on the State to protect and improve the environment. Article 51A imposes a fundamental duty on every citizen to protect and improve the environment. The Stockholm Declaration (1972) recommended prevention of pollution by adopting the 'Precautionary Principle', the 'Polluter Pays Principle' and the principle of 'Sustainable Development'.
7. The Water Act was enacted to provide for prevention and control of water pollution. The Central and State Boards have been established under the said Act. The Act

prohibits use of any stream or well for disposal of polluting matter. Standards to be maintained can be laid down. The Parliament has passed the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 to protect and improve the quality of environment. The Central Government is authorized to issue appropriate directions for protection of environment to the concerned authorities.

8. Considering the issue of pollution in River Ganga by the leather industry at Kanpur, the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India in *M.C. Mehta Vs. Union of India &Ors.*³, held that the discharge of the pollutants in Ganga could not be permitted directly or indirectly.

9. Again, in *M.C. Mehta Vs. Union of India &Ors.*⁴, directions to enforce the statutory provisions by the municipal bodies and the industries by stopping discharge of untreated sewage and effluents in River Ganga were issued. It was noted that the water pollution caused serious diseases, including Cholera and Typhoid. Water pollution could not be ignored and adequate measures for prevention and control are necessary. It was also observed that the educational institutions must teach atleast for one hour in a week lessons relating to protection and improvement of environment. Awareness should be created by organizing suitable awareness programs. In the same matter, the issue of Calcutta tanneries was considered in *M.C Mehta Vs. Union of India And Ors.*⁵, (*Calcutta Tanneries' Matter*). The tanneries were directed to be shifted by adopting the 'Precautionary Principle' so as to prevent discharge of effluents in the River Ganga.

10. Dealing with the control of pollution in river Pallar in Tamil Nadu, the Hon'ble Supreme Court in *Vellore Citizen' Welfare Forum Vs. Union of India*, (1996) 5 SSC 647 observed:

"13. The Precautionary Principle and the Polluter Pays Principle have been accepted as part of the law of the land. Article 21 of the Constitution of India guarantees protection of life and personal liberty. Articles 47, 48-A and 51-A(g) of the Constitution are as under:

³ (1987) 4 SCC 463 ¶14

⁴ (1988) 1 SCC 471

⁵ (1997) 2 SSC 411

“47. Duty of the State to raise the level of nutrition and the standard of living and to improve public health.—The State shall regard the raising of the level of nutrition and the standard of living of its people and the improvement of public health as among its primary duties and, in particular, the State shall endeavour to bring about prohibition of the consumption except for medicinal purposes of intoxicating drinks and of drugs which are injurious to health.

48-A. Protection and improvement of environment and safeguarding of forests and wildlife.—The State shall endeavour to protect and improve the environment and to safeguard the forests and wildlife of the country.

51-A. (g) to protect and improve the natural environment including forests, lakes, rivers and wildlife, and to have compassion for living creatures.”

Apart from the constitutional mandate to protect and improve the environment there are plenty of post-independence legislations on the subject but more relevant enactments for our purpose are: the Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974 (the Water Act), the Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1981 (the Air Act) and the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 (the Environment Act). The Water Act provides for the constitution of the Central Pollution Control Board by the Central Government and the constitution of the State Pollution Control Boards by various State Governments in the country. The Boards function under the control of the Governments concerned. The Water Act prohibits the use of streams and wells for disposal of polluting matters. It also provides for restrictions on outlets and discharge of effluents without obtaining consent from the Board. Prosecution and penalties have been provided which include sentence of imprisonment. The Air Act provides that the Central Pollution Control Board and the State Pollution Control Boards constituted under the Water Act shall also perform the powers and functions under the Air Act. The main function of the Boards, under the Air Act, is to improve the quality of the air and to prevent, control and abate air pollution in the country. We shall deal with the Environment Act in the latter part of this judgment.

16. The constitutional and statutory provisions protect a person's right to fresh air, clean water and pollution-free environment, but the source of the right is the inalienable common law right of clean environment. It would be useful to quote a paragraph from Blackstone's commentaries on the Laws of England (Commentaries on the Laws of England of Sir William Blackstone) Vol. III, fourth edition published in 1876. Chapter XIII, "Of Nuisance" depicts the law on the subject in the following words:

“Also, if a person keeps his hogs, or other noisome animals, or allows filth to accumulate on his premises, so near the house of another, that the stench incommodes him and makes the air unwholesome, this is an injurious nuisance, as it tends to deprive him of the use and benefit of his house. A like injury is, if one's neighbour sets up and exercises any offensive trade; as a tanner's, a tallow-chandler's, or the like; for though these are lawful and necessary trades, yet they should be exercised in remote places; for the rule is, 'sic uteretur, ut alienum non leadas'; this therefore is an actionable nuisance. And on a similar principle a constant ringing of bells in one's immediate neighbourhood may be a nuisance.

... With regard to other corporeal hereditaments; it is a nuisance to stop or divert water that used to run to another's meadow or mill; to corrupt or poison a watercourse, by erecting a dye-house or a lime-pit, for the use of trade, in the upper part of the stream; to pollute a pond, from which another is entitled to water his cattle; to obstruct a drain; or in short to do any act in common property, that in its consequences must necessarily tend to the prejudice of one's neighbour. So closely does the law of England enforce that excellent rule of gospel-morality, of 'doing to others, as we would they should do unto ourselves'."

11. The Central Government was directed to constitute an Authority under section 3 (3) of the Environment Act which can take measures to reverse the damage and recover the cost from the individuals responsible.

12. In *S. Jagannath Vs. Union of India &Ors.*⁶, effluents discharged by commercial shrimp culture farms were directed to be controlled. An authority was directed to be constituted headed by former Judge of the High Court to protect fragile coastal areas.

13. In the news item published in Hindustan Times titled "And Quiet Flows The Maily Yamuna"⁷, steps were directed to be taken to check pollution in river Yamuna.

14. In *Tirupur Dyeing Factory Owners Association Vs. Noyyal River Ayacutdars Protection Association &Ors.*⁸, directions were issued to check pollution in river Noyyal in the State of Tamil Nadu. A Committee headed by a former Judge of the High Court was appointed to assess the extent of damage and to identify the victims and based on the said report direction to cover damages and to stop pollution were issued by the High Court. Upholding the said directions, it was observed that if the pollution is not checked, the industrial activity has to be closed; cost for restoration has to be covered from those responsible for the pollution.

15. In spite of directions in several Judgments, discharge of untreated sewage and industrial effluents in rivers and water bodies is continuing at a large scale. Sewage treatment capacity is disproportionate to the sewage generated. Reports have

⁶ [1997] 2 SCC 87

⁷ (2009) 17 SSC 720

⁸ (2009) 9 SSC 737

found high level of Coliform in water bodies. According to some estimates, 75 to 80 % water is polluted in India. Number of polluted river stretches is on the increase. It is patent that statutory framework is inadequate or those who man the statutory authorities are not able to perform the duties assigned to them. This aspect has to be reviewed by the concerned Governments.

16. We may also refer to some of orders of this Tribunal on the subject.

17. In *Manoj Mishra Vs. Union of India*⁹, the Tribunal dealt with the pollution of river Yamuna in the light of directions of the Hon'ble Supreme Court. The Tribunal noted that right to clean and healthy environment was a Fundamental Right of the inhabitants. In violation of the said Right, the debris and solid waste were being dumped on the river bed. Encroachments have taken place, resulting in damage to the environment. Storm water drains which were polluted, were meeting the river at several points without being cleaned. The failure to manage extraction of ground water and diverting the river water for irrigation and other purposes beyond reasonable norms was resulting in obstructing the flow of the river. Dumping of untreated sewerage and industrial effluents was a major source of pollution.

18. An Expert Committee was appointed which suggested setting up of STPs to tackle this problem. It was seen that on account of pollution, vegetables grown in the area, irrigated by the polluted water were a health hazard and caused diseases like cancer. The Committee appointed by the Tribunal recommended that solid waste dump should be removed from the flood plains and construction activities on the flood plains should be stopped. All Settlements on the flood plains should be relocated. Construction of new barrages and roads, railways and metro bridges, and embankments and bunds should not be permitted. In exceptional cases, if it is permitted, a critical assessment of their potential impact should be assessed. Environmental clearance should be made necessary. High level of lead was found in 23% of the children as a result of pollution adversely affecting their health. The food crops were contaminated. The ground water was contaminated. Mercury

⁹ O.A. No. 6/2012, 2015 ALL(I) NGT REPORTER (1) (DELHI) 139

concentration was 200 times the standards on account of location of thermal power plant. The Faecal Coliform- bacteria were 30 times the standards. There was presence of high level of pesticides, heavy metals and other harmful matters in the vegetables/vegetation grown on the river bank.

19. Accordingly, the Tribunal issued several directions for cleaning the river and protecting the flood plains. The implementation of above directions was monitored from time to time in the last three years.

20. On 26.07.2018, the Tribunal recorded that there was a failure of the Administration in complying with the directions, even after more than three years, which made it necessary for the Tribunal to exercise power as an Executing Court under Section 25 of the National Green Tribunal Act, 2010. The Tribunal directed constitution of a two-member Monitoring Committee, comprising a former Chief Secretary of Delhi and a former Expert Member of the Tribunal so that the said Committee could prepare a time bound action plan and closely oversee the execution of the order of this Tribunal on a regular basis.

21. The Tribunal also dealt with the problem of level of pollution in river Ganga which is 2025 km. The two main sources of pollution, which were noted, are the industrial pollution and the municipal sewage. Apart from this, diversion of water and extraction of groundwater reduced the flow of the river which adversely affected its eco-system and vitality. The serious industrial pollution was caused by the leather industries at Jajmau, Kanpur and Unnao. The Tribunal considered the initiatives taken by the Central Government by way of Ganga Action Plan-I and Ganga Action Plan-II. It was also noted that the said initiatives had failed to bring about the desired results. The Tribunal disposed of the matter on 10.12.2015 with regard to Phase-I, Segment-A i.e. from Gaumukh to Haridwar. The rest of the matter was dealt with by subsequent Judgement dated 13.07.2017 in *M.C. Mehta Vs. Union of India*¹⁰.

¹⁰O.A No. 200 of 2014, 2017 NGTR (3) PB 1

The directions issued by the Tribunal included regulation of dumping of municipal solid waste and other wastes, prevention and control of sewage and industrial effluents, encroachments of floodplains, regulation of diversion of water and extraction of groundwater, cleaning of the drains meeting the river Ganga, maintaining environmental flow of the river, checking constructions on floodplains, setting up of regulating or stopping industrial activity of polluting nature, checking mining activities and disposal of bio-medical and other wastes, etc.

22. The implementation of the above directions was taken up from time to time. It was found that inspite of huge expenditure already incurred and efforts of the Committees monitoring the directions of this Tribunal as well as initiatives of the Government authorities, the requisite result has not been achieved. The water did not meet the requisite standards. The Tribunal had to appoint a Committee headed by a former High Court Judge vide order dated 06.08.2018.

23. On an earlier date on 27.07.2018, the Tribunal directed that the results of tests of water samples at various locations should be displayed on the website of Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB). It was noted that water from Haridwar to Kanpur was unfit for drinking and with few exceptions, even unfit for bathing. There was dumping of Chromium at and around Jajmau and Kanpur. There was violation of provisions of the Water Act, 1974 requiring closing of industries and prosecution. The Tribunal hoped that at one point of time the red sign in the map which was displayed on the website of the CPCB will be converted to green with the improvement in water quality. Till then, the progress could not be held to be satisfactory.

24. On 13.07.2018, in *Mahendra Pandey Vs. Union of India &Ors.*¹¹, pollution in river Ramganga was considered. River Ramganga is a tributary of River Ganga. It was found that in surface water samples, there was presence of heavy metals like Iron (Fe), Zinc (Zn), Copper (Cu) and Mercury (Hg). The level of Mercury was found above the screening levels (i.e. Indian Drinking Water standard). The stand of the

¹¹O.A. No. 58/2017

Uttar Pradesh Pollution Control Board was that there was difficulty in locating the site for construction of secured landfill. The Tribunal noted that the hazardous waste was required to be disposed of in a scientific manner. Illegal dumping of e-waste was required to be stopped. It was noted that pollution was being caused by electronic waste processing which was generating Milled Black Powder. This resulted in contamination of water with heavy metals.

25. On 24.07.2018 in *Sobha Singh &Ors. Vs. State of Punjab &Ors.*¹², the Tribunal considered the issue of pollution of River Sutlej and River Beas. The pollution resulted in toxicity and accumulation of Chromium, Nickel, Zinc and pesticides. The polluted drains were found meeting River Sutlej. The untreated industrial waste as well as the domestic waste was being dumped without any adequate action being taken by the Pollution Control Boards. Failure to check pollution was established by various inspections. In spite of steps taken in four years, with almost fifty adjournments and the directions of the Tribunal, the situation did not improve as expected. Accordingly, the Tribunal constituted an Independent Monitoring Committee which included a social activist to oversee the execution of directions of the Tribunal.

26. On 31.07.2018 in *Nityanand Mishra Vs. State of M.P. &Ors.*¹³, pollution of Son river was considered. Illegal sand mining activity was found to be resulting in affecting the flow of the river. Construction of barrage and operation of industries were affecting the habitat and breeding of *Gharials*. The Tribunal issued directions to stop illegal pollution for protection of the river and the wildlife near the Bansagar Dam and constituted a Committee to oversee the compliance of the directions of the Tribunal.

27. As already noted, on 06.08.2018, after reviewing the progress in the matter of River Ganga and finding that the progress did not meet the expectations of the Tribunal, the Tribunal exercised its jurisdiction under Section 25 of the National Green Tribunal Act, 2010 and constituted a Monitoring Committee headed by a former

¹²O.A.No. 101/2014

¹³O.A. No. 456/2018

Judge of the High Court to execute the directions already issued in a time bound manner. It was also observed that public education and public involvement were required to be considered.

28. On 07.08.2018 in “Stench Grips Mansa’s Sacred Ghaggar River (Suo-Moto Case)¹⁴”, this Tribunal considered pollution of river Ghaggar and failure of the authorities to check the same. The report of the Joint Inspection Committee showed that the pollution in the river was beyond the prescribed standards. There was failure on the part of the Pollution Boards in checking the pollution. In spite of several directions in the last four years by the Tribunal, the situation has not improved. The Tribunal directed that a Special Task Force (STF) must be constituted in every District and in every State. In a District, the STFs should comprise of District Magistrate, Superintendent of Police, Regional Officer of the State Pollution Control Boards in concerned District and one person to be nominated by the District Judge in every District in his capacity as Head of the District Legal Services Authority. At the State level, it was to comprise of the Chief Secretary, the Environment Secretary, the Secretary of Urban Development and Secretary of Local Bodies. The STFs were required to publish reports on the website. The Tribunal also constituted a Committee headed by a former Judge to oversee the compliance of the directions.

29. On 08.08.2018, in *Doaba Paryavaran Samiti Vs. State of U.P. & Ors.*¹⁵, pollution in river Hindon was the subject matter of consideration. The matter was taken up on the allegation that 71 persons in Baghpat district died and more than 1000 persons were affected by diseases on account of pollution. The Tribunal noted that there was contamination of groundwater on account of pollution caused by sugar, paper, distilleries and tannery industries. An inspection team, appointed by the Tribunal, found that 124 industries were causing pollution. It was noted that no punitive action has been initiated. The pollution caused included discharge of Mercury. The Tribunal observed that sources of contaminated water are required to be closed. The victims of diseases are required to be rehabilitated. A statement that there are

¹⁴O.A. No. 138/2016 (T_{NHRC})

¹⁵ O.A. No. 231/2014

302 river stretches in the country was noted and the CPCB was directed to identify at least 10 most critical stretches and prepare an action plan, in similar format as that of river Hindon.¹⁶ The directions issued by the Tribunal include making functionaries of the statutory authorities accountable for their failure, making potable water available, sources of contamination being closed, action plans being prepared at District, State and National levels for restoration of water quality and reversing the damage. The Committee headed by a former Judge of High Court was also constituted to oversee the execution of the directions.

30. On 17.08.2018, in *Arvind Pundalik Mhatre Vs. Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change &Ors.*¹⁷, the matter of pollution of River Kasardi was considered and directions were issued to remedy the situation and the Tribunal appointed a Committee headed by a former Judge of the High Court to oversee the compliance of the directions.

31. On 23.08.2018 in *Meera Shukla Vs. Municipal Corporation, Gorakhpur &Ors.*¹⁸, pollution of Ramgarh Lake, Ami River, Rapti River and Rohani River in and around District Gorakhpur on account of discharge of untreated sewage and industrial effluents was considered. It was noted that there was no proper management of solid waste disposal, leading to vector borne diseases and health problems. The pollution was caused, inter-alia, by sugar industries and other factories. The underground water was contaminated with arsenic. In the year 2012, 557 persons died with encephalitis deaths. In the last 30 years, 50,000 people had died. A financial package of Rs. 4,000 crore was given by the Central Government to fight the said diseases but there is no proper utilization of the amount. Apart from the 557 death in Gorakhpur District, more deaths had taken place in the area as stated in the news report dated 16.07.2013. The total deaths reported were 1256 in the year 2012. The Tribunal accordingly directed necessary steps to be taken to remedy

¹⁶ Hindon action plan prepared by CPCB is explained in para 46

¹⁷ O.A. No. 125/2018,

¹⁸ O.A. No. 116/2014,

the situation and also appointed a Committee headed by a former Judge of the High Court to oversee the compliance of directions of the Tribunal.

32. On 24.08.2018, in *Amresh Singh Vs. Union of India &Ors.*¹⁹, the matter of pollution of the Chenab and Tawi Rivers was considered and directions were issued to remedy the situation which was to be overseen by a Committee headed by a former High Court Judge.
33. Similarly, in respect of river *Subarnarekha in Sudarsan Das Vs. State of West Bengal &Ors.*²⁰, this Tribunal considered the matter and also appointed a Committee headed by a former Judge of the High Court to oversee the compliance of the directions.
34. There are instances of many other cases involving pollution of rivers which have come up for consideration before this Tribunal. It is not necessary to refer to all the cases.
35. We are of the view that the situation is far from satisfactory and action is required to be taken on war footing. Once statutory framework in the form of Water Act and the Environment Act is in place and the standards have been laid down by the Central Pollution Control Board, the matter cannot rest at ascertaining and identification of polluted stretches. There has to be meaningful further action to restore the minimum prescribed standards for all the rivers of the country. The polluter has to pay the cost of restoring the damage.
36. Without casting any aspersions on the statutory bodies, it is an acknowledged fact that the Pollution Control Boards have not been able to take adequate steps for keeping the standards of water within the prescribed limits. They have not been able to stop dumping of wastes, discharge of municipal or industrial effluents in rivers and water bodies. One of the reasons which has been frequently highlighted is the unsatisfactory manning of the Pollution Control Boards. This aspect was

¹⁹ Execution Application No. 32/2016 in O.A. No. 295/2016,

²⁰O.A.No. 173 of 2018

considered by the Hon'ble Supreme Court in *TechiTagi Tara Vs. Rajendra Singh Bhandari &Ors.*²¹ as follows:

"33. Unfortunately, notwithstanding all these suggestions, recommendations and guidelines the SPCBs continue to be manned by persons who do not necessarily have the necessary expertise or professional experience to address the issues for which the SPCBs were established by law. The Tata Institute of Social Sciences in a Report published quite recently in 2013 titled "Environmental Regulatory Authorities in India: An Assessment of State Pollution Control Boards" had this to say about some of the appointments to the SPCBs: "An analysis of data collected from State Pollution Control Boards, however, gives a contrasting picture. It has been observed that time and again across state governments have not been able to choose a qualified, impartial, and politically neutral person of high standing to this crucial regulatory post. The recent appointments of chairpersons of various State Pollution Control Boards like Karnataka (A a senior BJP leader), Himachal Pradesh (B a Congress party leader and former MLA), Uttar Pradesh (C appointed on the recommendation of SP leader X), Arunachal Pradesh (D a sitting NCP party MLA), Manipur Pollution Control Board (E a sitting MLA), Maharashtra Pollution Control Board (F a former bureaucrat) are in blatant violation of the apex court guidelines. The apex court has recommended that the appointees should be qualified in the field of environment or should have special knowledge of the subject. It is unfortunate that in a democratic set up, key enterprises and boards are headed by bureaucrats for over a decade. In this connection, it is very important for State Governments to understand that filling a key regulatory post with the primary intention to reward an ex-official through his or her appointment upon retirement, to a position 9 Item Nos. 07-08 July 20, 2018 dv for which he or she may not possess the essential overall qualifications, does not do justice to the people of their own states and also staffs working in the State Pollution Control Boards. The primary lacuna with this kind of appointment was that it did not evoke any trust in the people that decisions taken by an ex-official of the State or a former political leader, appointed to this regulatory post through what appeared to be a totally non-transparent unilateral decision. Many senior environmental scientists and other officers of various State Pollution Control Boards have expressed their concern for appointing bureaucrats and political leader as Chairpersons who they feel not able to create a favourable atmosphere and an effective work culture in the functioning of the board. It has also been argued by various environmental groups that if the government is unable to find a competent person, then it should advertise the post, as has been done recently by states like Odisha. However, State Governments have been defending their decision to appoint bureaucrats to the post of Chairperson as they believe that the vast experience of IAS officers in handling responsibilities would be easy. Another major challenge has been appointing people without having any knowledge in this field. For example, the appointment of G with maximum qualification of Class X as Chairperson of State Pollution Control Board of Sikkim was clear violation of Water Pollution and Prevention Act, 1974."

34. The concern really is not one of a lack of professional expertise – there is plenty of it available in the country – but the lack of dedication and willingness to take advantage of the resources available and instead benefit someone close to the powers that be. With this couldn't care-less attitude, the environment and public trust are the immediate casualties. It is unlikely that with such an attitude, any substantive effort can be made to

²¹ (2018) 11 SCC 734

tackle the issues of environment degradation and issues of pollution. Since the NGT was faced with this situation, we can appreciate its frustration at the scant regard for the law by some State Governments, but it is still necessary in such situations to exercise restraint as cautioned in *State of U.P. v. Jeet S. Bisht*.

35. Keeping the above in mind, we are of the view that it would be appropriate, while setting aside the judgment and order of the NGT, to direct the Executive in all the States to frame appropriate guidelines or recruitment rules within six months, considering the institutional requirements of the SPCBs and the law laid down by statute, by this Court and as per the reports of various committees and authorities and ensure that suitable professionals and experts are appointed to the SPCBs. Any damage to the environment could be permanent and irreversible or at least long-lasting. Unless (2007) 6 SCC 586 corrective measures are taken at the earliest, the State Governments should not be surprised if petitions are filed against the State for the issuance of a writ of quo warranto in respect of the appointment of the Chairperson and members of the SPCBs. We make it clear that it is left open to public spirited individuals to move the appropriate High Court for the issuance of a writ of quo warranto if any person who does not meet the statutory or constitutional requirements is appointed as a Chairperson or a member of any SPCB or is presently continuing as such."

37. This Tribunal also considered this matter in order dated 20.07.2018, in the case of *Satish Kumar vs. U.O.I & Ors.*,²² and observed as follows:

"Accordingly, we suggest that the Central Government as well as State Governments may appoint persons with judicial background to deal with the issues which may require the knowledge of legal and judicial system in the Pollution Control Boards and the local authorities. Such persons can also advise such bodies on manner of compliance of law so that such bodies can be saved from unnecessary litigation and charges of failure to comply with law.

24. Presence of a person with judicial background will help the Pollution Control Boards as well as local bodies to effectively discharge their administrative and judicial functions in an efficient manner. We are informed that in some of the Pollution Control Boards and Local Bodies, judicial officers are already being engaged.

25. We thus call upon the Central Government and all the State Governments to take a call on this issue consistent with the observation of the Hon'ble Supreme Court in *Techi Tagi Tara (Supra)*"

38. In order to do so, an officer of Superior Judicial Services may have to be taken on deputation by requesting the concerned High Court on the pattern of Law Secretaries of States.

39. As already noted, well known causes of pollution of rivers are dumping of untreated sewage and industrial waste, garbage, plastic waste, e-waste, bio-medical waste, municipal solid waste, diversion of river waters, encroachments of catchment areas and floodplains, over drawl of groundwater, river bank erosion on account of illegal sand mining. In spite of directions to install Effluent Treatment Plants (ETPs),

Common Effluent Treatment Plants (CETPs), Sewage Treatment Plants (STPs), and adopting other anti-pollution measures, satisfactory situation has not been achieved. Tough governance is the need of the hour. If pollution does not stop, the industry has to be stopped. If sewage dumping does not stop, locals have to be made accountable and their heads are to be prosecuted. Steps have to be taken for awareness and public involvement.

40. River Water is considered to be fit for bathing when it meets the criteria of having Bio-chemical Oxygen Demand (BOD) less than 3.0 mg/L, Dissolved Oxygen more than 5.0 mg/L and Faecal Coliform bacteria to be less than 500 MPN/100 ml.
41. According to the "Restoration of Polluted River Stretches- Concept & Plan" published by CPCB in January, 2018, 30,042 million litres per day (MLD) of domestic sewage is generated from urban areas along the polluted river stretches. The installed sewage treatment capacity is about 16,846 MLD, leaving a gap of about 13,196 MLD (43.9%). There is a large gap in sewage treatment capacity and generation of sewage in urban areas.
42. As already noted, according to latest assessment by the CPCB, there are 351 polluted river stretches in India i.e. where the BOD content is more than 3mg/L. The plan of CPCB is to target enhancement of river flow. The plan for restoration of polluted river stretches is proposed to be executed through two-fold concepts. One concept is to target enhancement of river flow through interventions on the water sheds/catchment areas for conservation and recharge of rain water for subsequent releases during lean flow period in a year. This concept will work on dilution of pollutants in the rivers and streams to reduce concentration to meet desired level of water quality. Other concept is of regulation and enforcement of standards in conjunction with the available flow in rivers /streams and allocation of discharges with stipulated norms.
43. The water quality assessment of aquatic resources by CPCB, on long term basis, has provided information on the segments of rivers that are not meeting water quality

criteria and have been identified as polluted. Assessment studies carried out on the sources of Restoration of Polluted River Stretches pollution in the rivers has highlighted the need for creation of infrastructure facilities (STPs /CETPs/ETPs) for management of wastewater in line with low flow or no flow of fresh water in the rivers and streams. In order to have a practical solution to augment non-monsoon availability of water, CPCB has suggested four phases for full scale water shed management in the upper reaches of catchment of the rivers and streams. The suggested phases for water shed management may be (a) Recognition phase (b) Restoration phase (c) Protection phase (d) Improvement phase.

- (a) **Recognition Phase** is identification and recognition of the problem, analysis of the cause of the problem and its effect and development of alternative solutions of problem.
- (b) **Restoration Phase** includes two main steps viz. selection of best solution to problems identified and application of the solution to the problems of the land.
- (c) **Protection Phase** takes care of the general health of the watershed and ensures normal functioning. The protection is against all factors, which may cause deterioration in watershed condition.
- (d) **Improvement Phase** deals with overall improvement in the watershed and all land is covered.

44. Attention is paid to agriculture and forest management and production, forage production and pasture management, socio-economic conditions to achieve the objectives of **watershed management**.

45. The river action plans are designed for control of pollution and to restore the water quality of the rivers. The infrastructure development for treatment of sewage always remains short of the waste water generation. The ever growing population and increasing water use in the **urban centres has outpaced the plan for creation of infrastructure**. The river action plans although have not improved the quality of the

water resources, however in absence of such plans, the quality of aquatic resources would have been further deteriorated.

46. River Hindon has been taken up as a model for preparation of action plan for restoration of water quality.²³ Salient features of the Action Plan are:

- i. Execution of field surveys to assess pollution load generated by industries and sewage generated in a city or town discharging sewage and trade effluent into river Hindon and its tributaries.
- ii. Collating water quality monitoring data of Hindon and its tributaries and assigning the class as per primary water quality criteria.
- iii. Water quality assessment of river in context of sewage/industrial drain outfalls with dilution and distance factors.
- iv. Laying time-limes for regulating industrial pollution control by ensuring consent compliance and closing the defaulting industries till they comply with the norms stipulated to them.
- v. Setting up of STPs in towns located in the river catchment and emphasis on utilization of treated sewage.
- vi. Adopting water conservation practices, ground water regulation, flood plain zone management and maintaining environmental flow.

47. The polluted river stretches have been divided in five priority categories i.e., I, II, III, IV, V depending upon the level of BOD. Following are the parameters for assessing the criteria:

I. Criteria for Priority I

- (a) Monitoring locations exceeding BOD concentration 30 mg/L has been considered as it is the standard of sewage treatment plant and in river it appears without dilution.(River locations having water quality exceeding discharge standards for BOD to fresh water sources)
- (b) All monitoring locations exceeding BOD concentration 6 mg/L on all occasions.
- (c) Monitoring locations exceeding 3 mg/L BOD are not meeting desired water quality criteria but does not affect to Dissolved

²³ <http://cpcb.nic.in/NGT/CPCB-Reply-Affidavit-Report-on-Hindon-Action-Plan.pdf>

Oxygen level in water bodies. If BOD exceeds 6mg/L in water body, the Dissolved Oxygen is reduced below desired levels.

- (d) The raw water having BOD levels upto 5 mg/L are does not form complex chemicals on chlorination for municipal water supplies. Hence the water bodies having BOD more than 6 mg/L are considered as polluted and identified for remedial action.

II. Criteria for Priority II

- (a) Monitoring locations having BOD between 20-30 mg/L.
 (b) All monitoring locations exceeding BOD concentration 6 mg/L on all occasions.

III. Criteria for Priority III

- (a) Monitoring locations having BOD between 10-20 mg/L.
 (b) All monitoring locations exceeding BOD concentration 6 mg/L on all occasions.

IV. Criteria for Priority IV

- (a) Monitoring locations having BOD between 6-10 mg/L.

V. Criteria for Priority V

- (a) Monitoring locations having BOD between 3-6 mg/l.
 (b) The locations exceeding desired water quality of 3mg/l BOD.

Polluted River Stretches- State wise-Priority wise						
STATE	I	II	III	IV	V	Grand Total
ANDHRA PRADESH				2	3	5
ASSAM	3	1	4	3	33	44
BIHAR			1		5	6
CHHATTISGARH				4	1	5
DAMAN, DIU AND DADRA NAGAR HAVELI	1					1
DELHI	1					1
GOA			1	2	8	11
GUJARAT	5	1	2	6	6	20
HARYANA	2					2
HIMACHAL PRADESH	1	1	1		4	7
JAMMU & KASHMIR		1	2	2	4	9
JHARKHAND				3	4	7
KARNATAKA			4	7	6	17
KERALA	1			5	15	21
MADHYA PRADESH	3	1	1	3	14	22
MAHARASHTRA	9	6	14	10	14	53
MANIPUR		1			8	9
MEGHALAYA	2			3	2	7
MIZORAM			1	3	5	9
NAGALAND	1		1	2	2	6
ODISHA	1		3	2	13	19
PUDUCHERRY				1	1	2

PUNJAB		2			1	1	4
RAJASTHAN				1		1	2
SIKKIM						4	4
TAMIL NADU		4			1	1	6
TELANGANA		1	2	2	2	1	8
TRIPURA						6	6
UTTAR PRADESH		4		1	2	5	12
UTTARAKHAND		3	1	1	4		9
WEST BENGAL		1	1	3	4	8	17
Grand Total		45	16	43	72	175	351

Polluted River Stretches- Priority I & Priority II				
STATE	RIVER NAME	RIVER STRETCH	BOD RANGE/ MAX VALUE (mg/L)	PRIORITY
ASSAM	BHARALU	GUWAHATI TO CHILARAI NAGAR	52.0	I
	BORSOLA	ALONG SARABBHATTI, GUWAHATI	34.0	I
	SILSAKO	ALONG CHACHAL, GUWAHATI	34.0	I
	SORUSOLA	ALONG PALTAN BAZAR, GUWAHATI	30.0	II
DAMAN, DIU AND DADRA NAGAR HAVELI	DAMANGANGA	SILVASSA TO DAMAN JETTY, MOTI DAMAN	10 - 80	I
DELHI	YAMUNA	WAZIRABAD TO ASGARPUR	9 - 80	I
GUJARAT	AMLAKHADI	PUNGUM TO BHARUCH	40 - 45	I
	BHADAR	JETPUR VILLAGE TO SARAN VILLAGE	426.0	I
	BHOGAVO	SURENDRANAGAR TO NANA KERALA	67.0	I
	KHARI	LALI VILLAGE TO KASHIPURA	235.0	I
	SABARMATI	KHEROJ TO VAUTHA	4 - 147	I
	VISHWAMITRI	VADODARA TO ASOD	6 - 21	II
HARYANA	GHAGGAR	RORKI TO SIRSA	6 - 482	I
	YAMUNA	PANIPAT TO SONEPAT	4 - 55	I
HIMACHAL PRADESH	SUKHANA	SUKHNA TO PARWANOO	54.0	I
	MARKANDA	KALA AMB TO NARAYANPUR	3.2 - 24	II
JAMMU & KASHMIR	DEVIKA	GURU RAVIDAS TEMPLE TO NAINSU	3.4-22	II
KERALA	KARAMANA	MALEKKDU TO THIRUVALLAM	56.0	I
MADHYA PRADESH	CHAMBAL	NAGDA TO RAMPURA	12 - 80	I
	KHAN	KABIT KHEDI TO KHAJRANA	30.8 - 80	I
	KSHIPRA	SIDDHAWAT TO TRIVENISANGAM	4 - 38	I
	BETWA	MANDIDEEP TO VIDISHA	3.3 - 20.2	II
MAHARASHTRA	GODAVARI	SOMESHWAR TEMPLE TO RAHED	5.0-88	I
	KALU	ALONG ATALE VILLAGE	75.0	I
	KUNDALIKA	SALAV TO ROHA	3.8-65	I
	MITHI	POWAI TO	250.0	I

		DHARAVI		
	MORNA	AKOLA TO TAKALIJALAM	52.8	I
	MULA	BOPODI TO AUNDH GAON	33-35	I
	MUTHA	SHIVAJI NAGAR TO KHADAKWASLA DAM	5.0-42.5	I
	NIRA	SANGAVI TO SHINDEWADI	12.5-35	I
	VEL	NHAVARE TO SHIKARPUR	30.2	I
	BHIMA	VITHALWADI TO TAKLI	8.0-22.0	II
	INDRAYANI	MOSHIGAON TO ALANDIGAON	12.5-22	II
	MULA-MUTHA	THEUR TO MUNDHWA BRIDGE	14-22	II
	PAWANA	DAPODI TO RAVET	15.5-24	II
	WAINGANGA	TUMSA TO ASHTI	10.4-22.4	II
	WARDHA	GHUGHUS TO RAJURA	7.0-22.0	II
MANIPUR	NAMBUL	SINGDA DAM TO BISHNUPUR	3.6-23.7	II
MEGHALAYA	UMKHRAH	MAWLAI TO SHILLONG	30-90.2	I
	UMSHYRPI	UMSHYRPI BRIDGE TO DHANKETI	38.5-95.0	I
NAGALAND	DHANSIRI	CHECK GATE TO DIPHU BDG	7.0-50.0	I
ODISHA	GANGUA	D/S BHUWANESHWAR	14-39	I
PUNJAB	GHAGGAR	SARDULGARH TO MUBARAKPUR	9.0-380	I
	SATLUJ	RUPNAGAR TO HARIKA BRIDGE	3.8-108	I
TAMIL NADU	CAUVERY	METTUR TO MAYILADUTHURAI	3.3-32	I
	SARABANGA	THATHAYAMPATTI TO T.KONAGAPADI	78.0	I
	THIRUMANIMUTHAR	SALEM TO PAPPARAPATTI	190.0	I
	VASISTA	MANIVILUNDHAN TO THIYAGANUR	675.0	I
TELANGANA	MUSI	HYDRABAD TO NALGONDA	4.0-60.0	I
	MANJEERA	GOWDICHARLA TO NAKKAVAGU	5.0-26	II
	NAKKAVAGU	GANDILACHAPET TO SEVALAL THANDA	26.0	II
UTTAR PRADESH	HINDON	SAHARANPUR TO GHAZIABAD	48-120	I
	KALINADI	MUZAFFAR NAGARTO GULAOTHI TOWN	8 - 78	I
	VARUNA	RAMESHWAR TO CONF WITH GANGA, VARANASI	4.5-45.2	I
	YAMUNA	ASGARPUR TO ETAWAH SHAHPUR TO ALLAHABAD (BALUA GHAT)	12.0-55	I
UTTARAKHAND	BHELA	KASHIPUR TO RAJPURA ATNDA	6.0-76.0	I
	DHELA	KASHIPUR TO GARHUWALA, THAKURDWARA	12 - 80	I
	SUSWA	MOTHROWALA TO RAIWALA	37.0	I
	KICHHA	ALONG KICHHA	28.0	II
WEST BENGAL	VINDHADHARI	HAROA BRIDGE TO MALANCHA BURNING GHAT	26.7-45.0	I
	MAHANANDA	SILIGURI TO BINAGURI	6.5-25	II

Polluted River Stretches- Priority III, IV & V				
STATE	RIVER NAME	RIVER STRETCH	BOD RANGE/ MAX VALUE (mg/L)	PRIORITY
ANDHRA PRADESH	KUNDU	NANDYAL TO MADDURU	7.7	IV
	TUNGABHADRA	MANTHRALAYAM TO BAVAPURAM	3.2 - 6.7	IV
	GODAVARI	RAYANPETA TO RAJAHMUNDRI	3.1 - 3.4	V
	KRISHNA	AMRAVATHI TO HAMSALA DEEVI	3.2	V
	NAGAVALI	ALONG THOTAPALLI	3.2	V
ASSAM	DEEPAR BILL	DEEPAR BILL TO GUWAHATI	10.6	III
	DIGBOI	LAKHIPATHE, RESERVE FOREST	14.0	III
	KAMALPUR	ALONG KAMALPUR	18.6	III
	PANCHNAI	ORANG TO BORSALA	11.4	III
	BRAHAMPUTRA	KHERGHAT TO DHUBRI	3.2 - 6.4	IV
	KHARSANG	ASSAM-ARUNANCHAL BORDER TO LONGTOM-1	7.2	IV
	PAGLDIA	NALBARI TO KHUDRA SANKARA	8.2	IV
	BARAK	PANCHGRAM TO SILCHAR	3.5 - 4.2	V
	BAROI	DOWNSTREAM OF BRIDGE AT NH-52	3.6	V
	BEGA	ALONG MANGALDOI	4.5	V
	BEKI	BARPETA ROAD TO JYOTI GAON	3.5	V
	BHOGDOI	JORHAT TO DULIAGAON	4.5	V
	BOGINADI	LAKHIMPUR TO DIBRUGARH	4.2	V
	BORBEEL	ALONG RAMNAGAR, DIGBOI	3.8	V
	BORDOIBAM BEELMUKH	ALONG BEELMUKH BIRD SANCTUARY, DHEMAJI	5.2	V
	BURHIDIHING	MARGHERITA TO TINSUKIA	4 - 4.6	V
	DHANSIRI	GOLAGHAT TO KATHKETIA	4.3 - 5.6	V
	DIKHOW	NAGINI MORA TO DIKHOMUKH	3.2	V
	DIKTRONG	ALONG BANDARDEWA	3.2	V
	DIPLAI	ALONG SILGARA, KOKRAJHAR	3.2	V
	DISANG	DILLIGHAT TO GUNDAMGHAT	4.2	V
	GABHARU	ALONG TUMIUKI, SONITPUR	5.4	V
	HOLUDUNGA	ALONG SOMARAJAN, DHEMAJI	4.8	V
	Jai Bharali	ALONG SONITPUR	3.1	V
	JHANJI	JORHAT TO CHAWDANG	3.8	V
	KALONG	NAGAON TO MORI KALONG	3.7 - 4.3	V
	KAPILI	NAGAON TO KAMPUR TOWN	5.5	V
	KILLING	ALONG MOREGAON	5.8	V
	KOHORA	KOHORA TO MOHPARA	4.4	V
	KULSI	ALONG CHAYGAON	3.6	V
	MALINI	ALONG RAMNAGAR, SILCHAR	5.3	V
	MORA BHARALI	ALONG TEZPUR	5.2	V

	PARASHALI	ALONG DEMORIA	4.0	V
	PUTHIMARI	ALONG PUTHIMARI	4.8	V
	RANGA	ALONG GERAMUKH	3.8	V
	SAMAGURI	ALONG SAMAGURI, NAGAON	4.0	V
	SANKOSH	ALONG GOLAKGANJ	3.3	V
	SON	ALONG DEODHAR, KARIMGANJ	4.3	V
	SONAI	SONAI TO DAKSHIN MOHANPUR	4.4	V
	TENGA PUKHURI	ALONG KUKURACHOWA GAON	4.0	V
BIHAR	SIRSLA	RUXOL TO KOIREA TOLA (RAXAUL)	20.0	III
	FARMAR	ALONG JOGBANI	3.6	V
	GANGA	BUXAR TO BHAGALPUR	3.2 - 4.2	V
	POONPUN	GAURICHAK TO FATUHA	3.3	V
	RAM REKHA	HARINAGAR TO RAMNAGAR	5.0	V
	SIKRAHNA	ALONG NARKATIAGANJ	4.5	V
CHHATTISGARH	HASDEO	KORBA TO URGA	3.6 - 7	IV
	KHAROON	BUNDRI TO RAIPUR	3.3 - 7.2	IV
	MAHANADI	ARRANG TO SIHAWA	3.3 - 8	IV
	SEONATH	SHIMGA TO BEMTA	3.4 - 8.4	IV
	KELO	RAIGARH TO KANAKTORA	3.8	V
GOA	SAL	KHAREBAND TO MOBOR	4.2 - 16.8	III
	MANDOVI	MARCELA TO VOLVOI	3.3 - 6.2	IV
	TALPONA	ALONG CANACONA	6.8	IV
	ASSONORA	ASSONORA TO SIRSAIM	3.3	V
	BICHOLIM	BICHOLIM TO CURCHIREM	4.8	V
	CHAPORA	PERNEM TO MORJIM	3.5 - 5.2	V
	KHANDEPAR	PONDA TO OPA	3.4	V
	SINQUERIM	ALONG CANDOLIM	3.6	V
	TIRACOL	ALONG TIRACOL	3.9	V
	VALVANT	SANKLI - BICHOLIM TO PORIEM	4.3	V
ZUARI	CURCHOREM TO MADKAI	3.2 - 5.1	V	
GUJARAT	DHADAR	KHOTDA TO CHANDPURA	16.0	III
	TRIVENI	TRIVENI SANGAM TO BADALPARA	11.0	III
	AMRAVATI (TRIBUTARY OF NARMADA)	ALONG DADHAL, ANKALESHWAR	10.0	IV
	DAMANGANGA	KACHIGAON TO VAPI	8.0	IV
	KOLAK	KIKARLA TO SALVAV	8.0	IV
	MAHI	SEVALIA TO BAHADARPUR	4.5 - 7	IV
	SHEDHI	DHAMOD TO KHEDA	9.0	IV
	TAPI	KHADOD (BARDOLI) TO SURAT	8.0	IV
	ANAS	DAHOD TO FATEHPURA	5.0	V
	BALEHWAR KHADI	PANDESARA TO KAPLETHA	4.0	V
	KIM	SAHOL BRIDGE TO HANSOL	3.1	V
	MESHWA	ALONG SHAMLAJI	4.0	V
	MINDHOLA	ALONG SACHIN	6.0	V
	NARMADA	GARUDESHWAR TO BHARUCH	5.0	V
HIMACHAL PRADESH	SIRSA	NALAGARH TO SOLAN	8 - 16	III
	ASHWANI	ALONG YASHWANT NAGAR	3.2	V
	BEAS	KULLU TO DEHRAGOPIPUR	6.0	V

	GIRI	ALONG SAINJ	4.4 - 6	V
	PABBAR	ALONG ROHRU	3.6 - 4	V
JAMMU & KASHMIR	BANGANGA	PONY SHED TO BATHING GHAT	6 - 14	III
	CHUNT KOL	MAULANA AZAD BRIDGE TO KANIKADAL	14.5	III
	GAWKADAL	GAWKADAL BRIDGE TO NOHATA	9.0	IV
	TAWI	SURAJNAGAR TO BELICARANA	5 - 8.3	IV
	BASANTER	SAMBA TO CHAKMANGARAKWAL	5 - 6	V
	CHENAB	JAL PATAN TO PARGAWAL	5.0	V
	JHELAM	CHATTABAL WEIR TO ANANTNAG	3.2 - 5.5	V
	SINDH	ALONG DUDERHAMA	3.7	V
JHARKHAND	GARGA	ALONG TALMUCHU	6.2	IV
	SANKH	KONGSERABASAR TO BOLBA	8.4	IV
	SUBARNAREKHA	HATIA DAM TO JAMSHEDPUR	3.4 - 10	IV
	DAMODAR	PHUSRO ROAD BDG TO TURIO	3.9	V
	JUMAR	KANKE DAM TO KADAL	3.3	V
	KONAR	ALONG TILAYA AND KONAR	3.4 - 3.6	V
	NALKARI	ALONG PATRATU	3.8	V
KARNATAKA	ARKAVATHI	HALLI RESERVOIR TO KANAKAPURA TOWN	14.0	III
	LAKSHMANTIRTHA	KATTEMALAVADI TO HUNSUR	7.1 - 12.4	III
	MALPRBHA	KHANAPUR TO DHARWAD	7.3 - 17.3	III
	TUNGBABHADRA	HARIHAR TO KORLAHALLI	4 - 19	III
	BHADRA	HOLEHUNNUR TO BHADRAVATHI	5.5 - 7.8	IV
	CAUVERY	RANGANATHITTU TO SATHYAMANGALAM BRIDGE	3.1 - 6.7	IV
	KABINI	NANJANAGUD TO HEJJIGE	3.6 - 6.5	IV
	KAGINA	SHAHABAD TO HONGUNTA	4.6 - 7.4	IV
	KALI	HASAN MAAD (WEST COAST PAPER MILL) TO BOMMANAHALLI RESERVOIR	6.5	IV
	KRISHNA	YADURWADI TO TINTINI BRIDGE	3.1 - 6.2	IV
	SHIMSHA	YEDIYAR TO HALAGUR	4 - 10	IV
	ASANGI NALLA	ALONG ASANGI	4.4	V
	BHIMA	GHANAPUR TO YADGIR	3.3 - 6	V
	KUMARDHARA	ALONG UPPINANGADI	4.0	V
	NETRAVATHI	UPPINANGADI TO MANGALURU	4.0	V
	TUNGA	SHIVAMOGA TO KUDLI	4.3	V
YAGACHI	ALONG YAGACHI, HASSAN	4.0	V	
KERALA	BHARATHAPUZHA	ALONG PATAMBI	6.6	IV
	KADAMBAYAR	MANCKAKADAVU TO BRAHMAPURAM	5.9 - 6.4	IV
	KEECHERI	PULIYANNOR TO KECHERY	6.4	IV
	MANIMALA	KALLOOPARA TO THONDRA	6.3 - 6.4	IV
	PAMBA	MANNAR TO THAKAZHY	3.3 - 7.8	IV
	BHAVANI	ALONG ELACHIVAZHY	5.4	V
	CHITRAPUZHA	IRUMPANAM TO KARINGACHIRA	4.6	V

	KADALUNDY	ALONG HAJIRAPPALLY/ HAJIYARPALLI	3.6	V	
	KALLAI	THEKEPURAM TO ARAKKINAR	4.5	V	
	KARUVANNUR	ALONG KARUVANNUR	3.5	V	
	KAVVAI	ALONG KAVVAI	3.9	V	
	KUPPAM	THALIPARAMBA TO VELICHANGOOL	3.1 - 3.8	V	
	KUTTIYADY	ALONG KUTTIYADY	5.0	V	
	MOGRAL	ALONG MOGRAL	3.1	V	
	PERIYAR	ALWAYS-ELOOR TO KALAMASSERY	3.2 - 5.1	V	
	PERUVAMBA	ALONG PERUVAMBA	3.9	V	
	PUZHACKAL	OLARIKKARA TO PUZHACKAL	3.8	V	
	RAMAPURAM	ALONG RAMAPURAM	3.3	V	
	THIRUR	NADUVILANGADI TO THALAKKADATHUR	3.6	V	
	UPPALA	POYYA TO MULINJA	3.2	V	
MADHYA PRADESH	SONE	ALONG AMLAI	12.4	III	
	GOHAD	GOHAD DAM TO GORMI	6.3	IV	
	KOLAR	SURAJNAGAR TO SHIRDIPURAM	7.5	IV	
	TAPI	NEPANAGAR TO BURHANPUR	4.6 - 8	IV	
	BICHIA	SILPARI TO GADHAWA	3.5	V	
	CHAMLA	ALONG BADNAGAR, UJJAIN	4.0	V	
	CHOUPAN	ALONG VIJAIPUR	3.4	V	
	KALISOT	MANDIDEEP TO SAMARDHA VILLAGE	4.1	V	
	KANHAN	KANHAN IN CHINDWARA DISTRICT BOUNDRY	3.2	V	
	KATNI	ALONG KATNI	3.5	V	
	KUNDA	KHARGONE TO KHEDI KHURD	4.0	V	
	MALEI	JAORA TO BARAUDA	3.5	V	
	MANDAKINI (MP)	ALONG CHITRAKUT	5.8	V	
	NEWAJ	ALONG SHUJALPUR	4.0	V	
	PARVATI	BATAWADA TO PILUKHEDI	3.2	V	
	SIMRAR	ALONG KATNI	3.9	V	
	TONS	CHAKGHAT TO CHAPPAR	3.5	V	
	WAINGANGA	CHINDWARA TO BALAGHAT	3.2	V	
	MAHARASHTRA	GHOD	ANNAPUR TO SHISHUR	10.2	III
		KANHAN	BHANDARA TO NAGPUR	9.8-16.4	III
KOLAR (MAH)		ALONG KORADI	18.0	III	
KRISHNA		SHINDI TO KURUNDWAD	3.4-14.0	III	
MOR		JALGAON TO AMODA	16.0	III	
PATALGANGA		KHADEPADA TO KOPOLI	5.0-18	III	
PEDHI		NARAYANPUR TO BHATKULI	20.0	III	
PENGANGA		MEHKAR TO UMARKHED	8.6-20	III	
PURNA		DHUPESHWAR TO ASEGAON	10.2-18.4	III	
TAPI		RAVER TO SHAHADA	8.0-12.0	III	
URMODI		DHANGARWADI TO NAGTHANE	12.4	III	
VENNA		MAHABALESHWAR TO MAHULI	7.2-12.5	III	
WAGHUR		SUNASGAON TO SAKEGAON	18.0	III	
WENA		KAWADGHAT TO HINDONGHAT	10.2-13.8	III	

	BINDUSAR	SWARAJ NAGAR TO SNEHNAGAR	8.0	IV
	BORI	ALONG AMALNER	9.2	IV
	CHANDRABHAGA	PANDHARPUR TO SHEGAON DHUMALA	7.5-9.5	IV
	DARNA	IGATPURI TO SANSARI	5.0-9.0	IV
	GIRNA	MALEGAON TO JALGAON	6.6-9.0	IV
	HIWARA	PACHORA TO NIMBORA	8.6	IV
	KOYNA	KARAD TO PAPDARDE	8.6	IV
	PEHLAR	PELHAR DAM TO GOLANI NAKA	7.0	IV
	SINA	SOLAPUR TO BANKALAGI	8.5	IV
	TITUR	ALONG CHALISGAON, JALGAON	7.8	IV
	AMBA	BENSE TO ROHA	4.8	V
	BHATSA	SHAHAPUR TO BHADANE	4.8-6.0	V
	GOMAI	LONKHEDA TO SHAHDA	6.0	V
	KAN	KAVATHE TO SAKARI	5.0	V
	MANJEERA	LATUR TO NANDED BRIDGE	5.0	V
	PANCHGANGA	SHIROL TO KOLHAPUR	3.2-5.8	V
	PANZARA	VARKHEDE TO DHULE	6.0	V
	RANGAVALI	TINTEMBA TO NAVAPUR	5.0	V
	SAVITRI	DADLI TO MUTHAVALI	3.2-5.0	V
	SURYA	DHAMNI DAM TO PALGHAR	4.4-5.0	V
	TANSA	ALONG THANE	6.0	V
	ULHAS	KALYAN TO BADLAPUR	4.0-5.0	V
	VAITARNA	GANDHRE TO SARASHI	4.0	V
	VASHISTI	KHERDI TO DALVATNE	3.2-3.4	V
MANIPUR	IMPHAL	KANGLA MOAT TO SAMUROU	3.4-6.4	V
	IRIL	KANGLA SIPHAI TO UKHRUL	3.2	V
	KHUGA	KHUGA LAKE TO CHURACHANDPUR	3.1-3.6	V
	KHUJAIROK	MOREH TO MAOJANG	4.3	V
	LOKCHAO	BISHNUPUR TO LOKTAK LAKE	4.5	V
	MANIPUR	SEKMAIJAN TO THOUBAL	3.6-4.3	V
	THOUBAL	SHONG KONG TO PHADOM	3.5	V
	WANGJING	WANGJING TO HEIROK	4.1-4.3	V
MEGHALAYA	KYRHUKHLA	SUTNGA TO KHLIERIAT	10.0	IV
	NONBAH	NANGSTOIN TO WAHRIAT	6.0-7.5	IV
	UMTREW	BYRNIHAT TO MORANG DALA	6.2-8.0	IV
	LUKHA	MYNDIHATI TO SHYMLONG	6.0	V
	MYNTDU	JOWAI TO PAMHADEM	5.2	V
MIZORAM	TIAU	ALONG CHAMPHAI	11.3	III
	TLAWNG	ALONG ZOBAWK, SAIRANG TO BAIRABI	3.1-6.7	IV
	TUIPUI	ALONG CHAMPHAI	8.2	IV
	TUIVAWL	ALONG KEIFANG	6.8	IV
	CHITE	ALONG ARMED VENG	3.7	V
	MAT	ALONG SERCHHIP	5.5	V
	SAIKAH	ALONG LAWNGTLAI	4.4	V
TUIKUAL	ALONG SERCHHIP	6.0	V	

	TUIRIAL	ALONG TUIRIAL, AIZWAL	3.4-4.6	V
NAGALAND	DZUNA	ALONG KOHIMA	6.0-13.0	III
	CHATHE	MEDZIPHEMA TO, DIMAPUR	7.0	IV
	DZU	KOHIMA TO DZUKO VALLEY	7.0	IV
	DZUCHA	ALONG KOHIMA	4.0	V
	SANO	ALONG KOHIMA	4.0	V
ODISHA	GURADIH NALLAH	ALONG ROURKELA	11.3	III
	KATHAJODI	CUTTACK TO URALI	5.8-11.2	III
	NANDIRAJHOR	D/S TALCHER	2.7 - 13	III
	DAYA	BHUBANESWAR TO BARAGARH	4.0-7.3	IV
	KUAKHAI	URALI TO BHUBANESWAR	6.7-7.7	IV
	BANGURU NALLAH	ALONG TALCHER RENGALI	3.2	V
	BHEDEN	ALONG BHEDEN	3.6	V
	BRAHAMANI	ROURKELA TO BIRITOL	5.8-6.0	V
	BUDHABALNAGA	MAHULIA TO BARIPADA	3.5	V
	KUSUMI	ALONG ANGUL TALCHER	3.2	V
	MAHANADI	SAMBALPUR TO PARADEEP	3.6	V
	MANGALA	ALONG PURI	5.7	V
	NAGAVALLI	JAYKAYPUR TO RAYAGADA	3.5	V
	NUNA	ALONG BIJIPUR, PURI	3.1	V
	RATNACHIRA	ALONG BHUBHNEHWAR, PURI	3.3	V
	RUSHIKULYA	PRATAPPUR TO GANJAM	3.4	V
	SABULIA	ALONG JAGANNATHPATNA, RAMBHA	5.0	V
	SERUA	KHANDAETA TO SANKHATRASA	4.8	V
PUDUCHERRY	ARASALAR	ALONG KARAİKAL	7.0	IV
	CHUNNAMBAR	ALONG ARIYANKUPPAM	6.0	V
PUNJAB	KALI BEIN	SULTANPUR LODHI TO CONF TO BEAS	9.0	IV
	BEAS	ALONG MUKERIAN	3.8	V
RAJASTHAN	BANAS	ALONG BISALPUR DAM, SWAROOPGANJ, NEWTA DAM	13.2	III
	CHAMBAL	SAWAIMADHOPUR TO KOTA	3.2-4.8	V
SIKKIM	MANEY KHOLA	ADAMPOOL TO BURTUUK	3.2-4.5	V
	RANGIT	DAM SITE (NHPC) TO TREVANI	3.2-3.8	V
	RANICHU	NAMLI TO SINGTAM	3.8-4.0	V
	TEESTA	MELLI TO CHUNGTHANG	4.0-4.3	V
TAMIL NADU	BHAVANI	SIRUMUGAI TO KALINGARAYAN	3.3-6.6	IV
	TAMBIRAPANI	PAPPANKULAM TO ARUMUGANERI	3.1-4.0	V
TELANGANA	KARAKAVAGU	ALONG PALWANCHA	18.0	III
	MANER	WARANGAL TO SOMNAPALLI	6-20.0	III
	GODAVARI	BASAR TO KHAMMAM	4.0-9.0	IV
	KINNERSANI	ALONG PALWANCHA	10.0	IV
	KRISHNA	THANGADIGI TO WADAPALLY	5.0-6.0	V
TRIPURA	BURIGAON	ALONG BISHALGARH	3.9	V
	GUMTI	TELKAJILA TO AMARPUR	3.9	V
	HAORA	AGARTALA TO BISHRAMGANJ	3.2-4.0	V
	JURI	ALONG	4.9	V

		DHARMANAGAR		
	KHOWAI	ALONG TELIAMURA	3.3	V
	MANU	ALONG KAILASHAHAR	3.5-3.6	V
UTTAR PRADESH	GOMTI	SITAPUR TO VARANASI	3.1-18.0	III
	GANGA	KANNAUJ TO VARANASI	3.5-8.8	IV
	RAMGANGA	MURADABAD TO KANNAUJ	6.6	IV
	BETWA	HAMIRPUR TO WAGPURA	3.5-4.2	V
	GHAGHARA	BARHALGANJ TO DEORIA	4.0-4.5	V
	RAPTI	DOMINGARH TO RAJGHAT	4.7-5.9	V
	SAI	UNNAO TO JAUNPUR	4.0-4.5	V
	SARYU	AYODHYA TO ELAFATGANJ	4.3	V
UTTARAKHAND	KALYANI	D/S PANT NAGAR	16.0	III
	GANGA	HARIDWAR TO SULTANPUR	6.6	IV
	KOSI	SULTANPUR TO PATTIKALAN	6.4	IV
	NANDOUR	ALONG SITARGANJ	5.6-8.0	IV
	PILKHAR	IN THE VICINITY OF RUDRAPUR	10.0	IV
WEST BENGAL	CHURNI	SANTIPUR TOWN TO MAJHADIA	10.3-11.3	III
	DWARKA	TARAPITH TO SADHAK BAMDEB GHAT	5.6-17.0	III
	GANGA	TRIBENI TO DIAMOND HARBOUR	5.0-12.2	III
	DAMODAR	DURGACHAKM TO DISHERGARH	4.4-8.2	IV
	JALANGI	LAAL DIGHI TO KRISHNA NAGAR	8.3	IV
	KANSI	MIDNAPORE TO RAMNAGAR	9.9	IV
	MATHABHANGA	MADHUPUR TO GOBINDAPUR	8.5	IV
	BARAKAR	KULTI TO ASANSOL	5.7	V
	DWARAKESHWAR	ALONG BANKURA	1-5.6	V
	KALJANI	BITALA TO ALIPURDWAR	6.0	V
	KAROLA	JALPAIGURI TO THAKURER KAMAT	3.9	V
	MAYURKASHI	SURI TO DURGAPUR	5.2	V
	RUPNARAYAN	KOLAGHAT TO BENAPUR	3.1-5.8	V
	SILABATI	GHATAL TO NISCHINDIPUR	3.8	V
TEESTA	SILIGURI TO PAHARPUR	3.3	V	

48. In view of above, it is absolutely necessary that Action Plans are prepared to restore the polluted river stretches to the prescribed standards. The Action Plans may cover the following:

A) Source control

Source control includes industrial pollution control and treatment and disposal of domestic sewage as detailed below:-

(a) Industrial pollution control

- (i) Inventorisation of industries
- (ii) Categories of industry and effluent quality

- (iii) Treatment of effluents, compliance with standards and mode of disposal of effluents
- (iv) Regulatory regime.

(b) Channelization, treatment, utilization and disposal of treated domestic sewage.

- (i) Identification of towns in the catchment of river and estimation of quantity of sewage generated and existing sewage treatment capacities to arrive at the gap between the sewage generation and treatment capacities;
- (ii) Storm water drains now carrying sewage and sullage joining river and interception and diversion of sewage to STPs,
- (iii) Treatment and disposal of septage and controlling open defecation,
- (iv) Identification of towns for installing sewerage system and sewage treatment plants.

(B) River catchment/Basin Management-Controlled ground water extraction and periodic quality assessment

- (i) Periodic assessment of groundwater resources and regulation of ground water extraction by industries particularly in over exploited and critical zones/blocks.
- (ii) Ground water re-charging /rain water harvesting
- (iii) Periodic ground water quality assessment and remedial actions in case of contaminated groundwater tube wells/bore wells or hand pumps.
- (iv) Assessment of the need for regulating use of ground water for irrigation purposes.

(C) Flood Plain Zone.

- (i) Regulating activities in flood plain zone.
- (ii) Management of Municipal, Plastic, Hazardous, Bio-medical and Electrical and Electronic wastes.
- (iii) Greenery development- Plantation plan.

(D) Ecological/Environmental Flow (E-Flow)

- (a) Issues relating to E-Flow
- (b) Irrigation practices

(E) Such other issues which may be found relevant for restoring water quality to the prescribed standards.

49. Model Action Plan for Hindon River, already prepared by the CPCB, may also be taken into account.

50. In view of above, we consider it necessary to issue the following directions:

- i) All States and Union Territories are directed to prepare action plans within two months for bringing all the polluted river stretches to be fit at least for bathing purposes (i.e BOD < 3 mg/L and FC < 500 MPN/100 ml) within six months from the date of finalisation of the action plans.
- ii) The action plans may be prepared by four-member Committee comprising, Director, Environment, Director, Urban Development, Director, Industries, Member Secretary, State Pollution Control Board of concerned State. This Committee will also be the Monitoring Committee for execution of the action plan. The Committee may be called "River Rejuvenation Committee" (RRC). The RRC will function under the overall supervision and coordination of Principal Secretary, Environment of the concerned State/Union Territory.
- iii) The action plan will include components like identification of polluting sources including functioning/ status of STPs/ETPs/CETP and solid waste management and processing facilities, quantification and characterisation of solid waste, trade and sewage generated in the catchment area of polluted river stretch. The action plan will address issues relating to; ground water extraction, adopting good irrigation practices, protection and management of Flood Plain Zones (FPZ), rain water harvesting, ground water charging, maintaining minimum environmental flow of river and plantation on both sides of the river. Setting up of biodiversity parks on flood plains by removing encroachment shall also be considered as an important component for river rejuvenation. The action plan should focus on proper interception and diversion of sewage carrying drains to the Sewage Treatment Plant (STP) and emphasis should be on utilization of treated sewage so as to minimize extraction of ground or surface water. The action plan should have speedy, definite or specific timelines for execution of steps. Provision may be made to pool the resources, utilizing funds from State budgets, local bodies, State Pollution Control Board/ Committee and out of Central Schemes.

- iv) The Action Plans may be subjected to a random scrutiny by a task team of the CPCB.
- v) The Chief Secretaries of the State and Administrators/ Advisors to Administrators of the Union Territories will be personally accountable for failure to formulate action plan, as directed.
- vi) All States and Union Territories are required to send a copy of Action Plan to CPCB especially w.r.t Priority I & Priority II stretches for approval.
- vii) The States and the Union Territories concern are directed to set up Special Environment Surveillance Task Force, comprising nominees of District Magistrate, Superintendent of Police, Regional Officer of State Pollution Control Board and one person to be nominated by District Judge in his capacity as Chairman of Legal Services Authority on the pattern of direction of this Tribunal dated 07.08.2018, in *Original Application No. 138/2016 (TNHRC), "Stench Grips Mansa's Sacred Ghaggar River (Suo-Motu Case)*.
- viii) The Task Force will also ensure that no illegal mining takes place in river beds of such polluted stretches.
- ix) The RRC will have a website inviting public participation from educational institutions, religious institutions and commercial establishments. Achievement and failure may also be published on such website. The Committee may consider suitably rewarding those contributing significantly to the success of the project.
- x) The RRCs will have the authority to recover the cost of rejuvenation in Polluter Pays Principle from those who may be responsible for the pollution, to the extent found necessary. In this regard, principle laid down by this Tribunal in order dated 13.07.2017 in *O.A No. 200 of 2014, M.C Mehta Vs. U.O.I* will apply. Voluntary donations, CSR contribution, voluntary services and private participation may be considered in consultation with the RRC.

51. We understand that the State Pollution Control Boards or other authorities are having funds deposited under the order of the Tribunal besides funds available

under Consent Mechanism. The said funds may be utilized for the purpose of expenditure for the Committees, including preparation and execution of action plans in accordance with the provisions contained in the Water Act, 1974.

52. A copy of this be sent by e-mail to all the concerned i.e. the Ministry of Water Resources, Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change, Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs, the Niti Ayog, National Mission for Clean Ganga, Central Pollution Control Board, Chief Secretaries of all the States and Union Territories for compliance.

53. The RRCs will send progress reports by e-mail at filing.ngt@gmail.com on or before 15.12.2018.

54. Needless to say, that order of National Green Tribunal is binding as a decree of Court and non-compliance is actionable by way of punitive action including prosecution, in terms of the National Green Tribunal Act, 2010.

55. Put up for consideration of the Report on 19th December, 2018.

....., CP
(Adarsh Kumar Goel)

....., JM
(S.P. Wangdi)

....., EM
(Dr. Nagin Nanda)

New Delhi
September 20, 2018